

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7366

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS ID

SUBJECT: THE FAHMI BASYA AFFAIR - A GOI WARNING TO THE MOSLEM
OPPOSITION

REF: JAKARTA 12520 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. HIGH-LEVEL GOI SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS IN RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE FOCUSSED ON THE CASE OF A UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA STUDENT CHARGED WITH PLOTTING TO KILL PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND HIS FAMILY, CLEARLY IMPLYING THAT THE STUDENT, APPARENTLY A MOSLEM FANATIC, WAS INCITED BY ANTI-GOVERNMENT PREACHERS. AS WITH THE SAWITO CASE (REFTEL), THE OFFICIAL ATTENTION PAID TO THIS AFFAIR CAN BE READ AS A WARNING TO GOVERNMENT CRITICS TO WATCH THEIR STEP IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. "EVIDENCE" SEIZED FROM THE STUDENT MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH A BASIS TO TAKE MORE DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE MOSLEM OPPOSITION SHOULD THEY LATER CHOOSE TO DO SO. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FAHMI BASYA CASE FIRST HIT THE JAKARTA PRESS WHEN UNIV-
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ERSITY OF INDONESIA STUDENTS PROTESTED THAT SECURITY FORCES

HAD ENTERED THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS ON SEPT 28 WITHOUT A REQUIRED PERMIT TO ARREST THE STUDENT IN THE UNIVERSITY MOSQUE. IN SEPARATE STATEMENTS ON SUCCEEDING DAYS GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN, INCLUDING MINISTER OF INTERIOR AMIR MACHMUD, KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO, AND INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING BOARD (BAKIN) CHIEF GENERAL YOGA, HAVE JUSTIFIED THE ARREST BY REVEALING A NUMBER OF NOT ALWAYS CONSISTENT FACTS ABOUT THE CASE. THEY HAVE CLAIMED IN PARTICULAR THAT FAHMI, WHO WAS DIRECTOR OF THE MOSQUE AND LISTED IT AS HIS ADDRESS, WAS CAUGHT WITH EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS (THE MAKINGS OF MOLOTOV COCKTAILS) AND/OR A FORMULA FOR EXPLOSIVE (TNT). HE LATER ALLEGEDLY CONFESSED UNDER INTERROGATION TO HAVING PLANNED TO BLOW UP THE ANCOL RECREATION PARK, WHICH HE CONSIDERED A PLACE OF PROSTITUTION, AND TO KILL PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY. AMIR MACHMUD POINTEDLY NOTED THAT FAHMI MAY HAVE BEEN INCITED BY INFLAMMATORY SERMONS, CASSETTE RECORDINGS OF WHICH WERE FOUND IN HIS POSSESSION AND WERE BEING STUDIED.

3. UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA SOURCES AND LEGAL AID SOCIETY DIRECTOR BUYUNG NASUTION, WHO HAS AGREED PERSONALLY TO REPRESENT FAHMI IN COURT, TELL US THAT THE FANATICALLY RELIGIOUS MATHEMATICS STUDENT APPARENTLY WAS INDEED CONSIDERING SOME SORT OF ACTION AGAINST ANCOL PARK. THEY DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE PLANNED TO ATTACK THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY OR THAT HE HAD THE PHYSICAL MEANS TO CARRY OUT ANY SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE AT ALL. THE UNIVERSITY SOURCES ADDED THAT CERTAIN PROMINENT MOSLEM PREACHERS, INCLUDING FORMER MASJUMI LEADER SJAFRUDDIN PRAWIRANEGARA, HAD BEEN VERY INDISCRETE IN THEIR SERMONS AT THE UNIVERSITY MOSQUE AND THAT THEY, RATHER THAN FAHMI, WERE THE GOVERNMENT'S REAL TARGET.

4. COMMENT: THIS ARREST WAS PRECEDED BY SEVERAL INDICATIONS OF INCREASING GOVERNMENT CONCERN OVER THE MOSLEM OPPOSITION'S USE OF THE FRIDAY SERMON TO ATTACK THE SUHARTO ADMINISTRATION. MINISTER OF INTERIOR AMIR MACHMUD RECENTLY CALLED IN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC PREACHERS COUNCIL (DEWAN DAKWA) MOHAMMAD NATSIR TO PROTEST USE OF THE MOSQUE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND ADMIRAL SUDOMO HAS VOICED SIMILAR COMPLAINTS IN RECENT APPEARANCES BEFORE RELIGIOUS GROUPS. THE FAHMI BASYA "TAPES" MAY NOW PROVIDE SECURITY OFFICIALS WITH A BASIS FOR MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THEIR MORE OUTSPOKEN MOSLEM CRITICS. FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, HOWEVER, THEY SEEM TO BE KEEPING THIS WEAPON IN RESERVE.
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